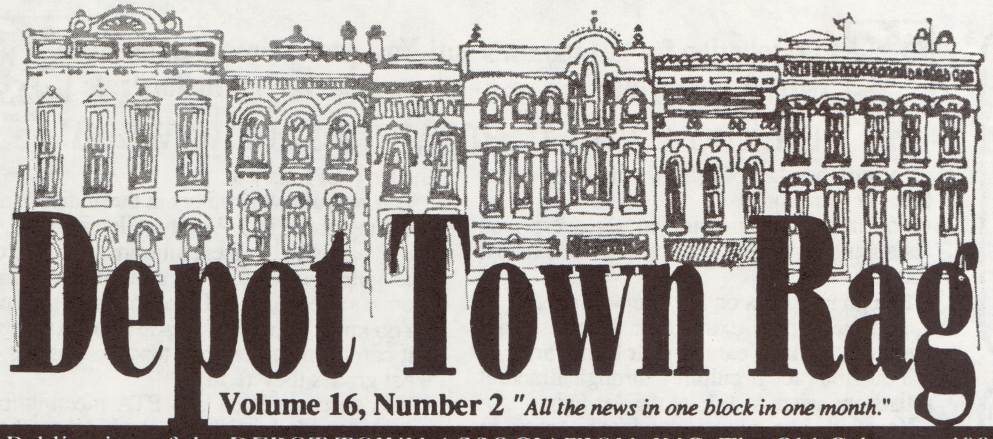


Depot Town Rag

Volume 16, Number 2 *"All the news in one block in one month."*

A Publication of the DEPOT TOWN ASSOCIATION, INC. The Old Caboose, 400 Market Place, Ypsilanti, MI 48198

100% FREE
Rag Content
February 1993

- Yo Momma lives in A2
- **Freight Memos**
- Winter Walk Codes
- **Market events**
- **Semi-seriousness**

and other strictly local stuff. . . .

Hash Bash Heritage not too funny

Lots of laughs as we look into our future ?

Talk about stereotyping! Regular *Rag* readers responded almost too enthusiastically to last month's jibes at Ypsilanti by some Ann Arbor snob. Sure, we may think Harriet Arnow's *The Dollmaker* was about life in Willow Run during World War II, but we never bothered to figure out why she chose to live out her final years in the farm land just north Ann Arbor's hyper development. Just as some might think all the locals down in Ypsi's historic Depot Town probably work for the railroad and drive pick-up trucks with gun racks, so do many Ypsi-ites think that everybody in Ann Arbor has finally made the transition from Hippie to Yuppie and now lives in neo-post-modern houses in subdivisions named after English breeds of swine.

Defensive so's-your-old-man-style insults poured in to The Old Caboose during January of 1993 and our editor admits that there's enough vitriol here to keep *The Rag* going as a *weekly* publication for the rest of the year. But, no; we won't do it. It would be too easy — and not in the best interest of . . . etc., etc., etc.

No, everybody's dog in Ann Arbor does not wear a bandana and catch Frisbies in the street while their children attend remedial Karate classes, and not everyone in Ann Arbor subdivides the family homestead into a college student slum with no parking, but sometimes we like to pretend that's how they're different from Ypsilanti folks. No, Ann Arborites don't all drive Volvos and carry soft cheese in the pockets of their Banana Republic safari jackets. Sometimes you can't tell them from our Ypsi neighbors. So many of us live in one town and work in the other, that we wear two hats — and they're nearly identical — and they didn't come from Eddie Bauer, either.

Truth to tell, nearly half the folks who've re-habbed the housing stock in Our Town these last few years are former Ann Arbor folk who realized what a treasure there still is to be found on these tree-lined streets. And the enthusiastic crowd attending our many jazz events is made up, in large part, by an Ann Arbor clientele. The Frog Island Festival, in fact, is produced by The Ark, an A2 organization of long and dignified standing which has collaborated with Ypsilanti entrepreneurs for several years. And the antiquers who line our streets each week are often folks from those newly mortgaged properties west of here who seek some reality and tradition from our street's 'rent an ancestor' opportunities.

As the population grows and the municipal maps appear to merge beyond freeway belt lines, cities and townships are separated only by their voter registrations. Mid-Washtenaw county municipal mavens react together to shared urban problems such as public safety, land use, water quality, recycling, toxic dumping and traffic control.

Shortsightedness in planning our next sprawl into the future may make us *all* the brunt of jokes of the next generation - if there is one. Maybe we had better start enjoying our differences. After all, he who laughs, lasts!

[See this month's 'retaliations' on page two]

District's entrepreneurs perceived as the most moral and ethical

[Things must not be so pleasant in Pleasantville, New York, since, when *The Reader's Digest* published the following results of a Harris Poll of 1256 adults, they titled Grant Ujifusa's article "*Who* Do We Trust?" Should we expect this from a *large* publisher?]

The Digest's writer suggests "new members of Congress would do well to study how the public rates the 'moral and ethical standards' of people in various occupations." Then he goes on to note how the Harris Poll rated their chosen occupations: Small-business owners - like those down in Ypsilanti's historic Depot Town - get a 64-percent positive rating; lawyers are rated positively by only 25 percent and members of Congress by a mere 19 percent.

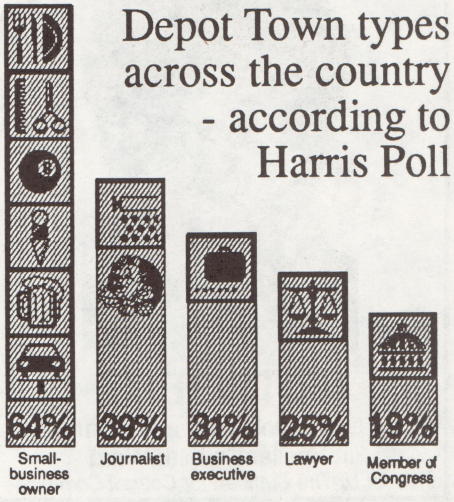
"Americans admire those who create jobs, pay bills and deliver honest value," says Ujifusa. "They trust the small and local, and are hostile to the big and remote.

Ironically, General Motors' Willow Run employees still find tiny, old Depot Town to be a prime focus for their loyalty, while mega malls continue to replace last year's mega malls out on the Interstate. Bigger isn't better, they conlude; only bigger.

Local wags wonder if *The Digest* or Harris pollsters were at all surprised at the results of their responses. Most folks on Cross and River Streets in Ypsilanti knew it all the time.

Whom do we trust?

Depot Town types across the country - according to Harris Poll



DEPOT TOWN
UP YOUR YPSI

Ypsilanti's
Farmers' Market
February
2/6 Workshop
Dried Plants & Flowers Crafts
(482-4186)
2/13 Valentines Craft Show!
2/20 Youth Sales Day!
Sports Card "Trading Zone"
2/27 Community Health
& Safety Day!
Watch for flyer and
event information

Market Hours:
Wednesday and Saturday 7am - 3pm
Open year 'round
in the railroad freighthouse
Ample Free Parking
Live music every Saturday am
For information: 483-1480

A paid political announcement:
Elect a Strong and Independent Voice
for Ypsilanti's Fifth Ward
Vote for
PAM CUTHBERT
Democrat
For Fifth Ward City Council Representative
On Monday February 15

CUTHBERT
for Communication and Change
in Ypsilanti's Fifth Ward
Paid for by The Cuthbert for Council Committee

"Really funny"

In retaliation for last month's anti-Ypsi provincialism published here, many regular *Rag* readers sent observations to illustrate

"Not so funny"

You know you're an Ann Arborite when:

• You number the pot holes when giving directions to your house.
• You sit outside an outrageously overpriced restaurant on Main Street and suck exhaust fumes.
• You go in circles on the one way streets.
• You pick up an extra buck during special events by parking cars in your front yard.
• You find 'local culture' through itinerant artists one week in July at the Art Fair.
• Your kids live in a windowless bedroom in the basement.
• You brag about the artistic community, but haven't been to a play, concert or gallery in the last ten years.
• You've been too drunk to watch football - but not too drunk to cater a 'tailgate party' at the annual neighborhood riot.
• Your mother wears 'maize and blue' fashions to scalp tickets outside the stadium on footbal Saturdays.
• You learned parliamentary procedure by watching your elected officials on Cable TV.
• 'Cinema' is something that happens in living room-sized theaters in a cement block building surrounded by acres of paved parking next to a freeway.
• You ride your bike with unanimity in either pedestrian or vehicular traffic spaces.
• Your foreign car's rust spots are covered with ecology bumpersticker slogans.
• You shop for vegetarian staples while wearing a leather motorcycle jacket, leather boots, vest and cap.
• You're still enrolled in graduate school, but haven't yet figured out how to read the 'Walk/Don't Walk' signs.
• 'Community' is a post-modern subdivision.
• Your Victorian homestead is divided into fifty-seven student 'apartments' with no parking provided.
• You don't own a snow shovel but figure your front sidewalk is covered by your homeowner's liability policy.
• You figure The City should take care of the berm in front of your house but you don't know who The City is.
• You 'recycle' by leaving everything you don't want on your front porch.
• You've graduated from Qualuudes to white wine and Brie and can't remember much from the '60s.
• You'd get involved with your neighbors only if you could get a grant to study the phenomenon.
• You wear make-up and designer originals to jog in heavy traffic.
• You see Burns Park as an intellectual ghetto, but you really wish you lived in Barton Hills.
• You fight for a close-in parking space at the exercise club —so you won't have to walk far.
• You hang a block 'M' flag from your porch on football Saturdays, but have no 'M' diplomas hanging inside.
• You worked at The Pizza Farm for at least six months.
• You consider a multi-million dollar lighting display a religious artifact.
• You figure you're more polite than a New Yorker because you arrived at the play before the first act finished.
• You wonder what others in the audience are laughing about in a Woody Allen movie.
• You babysit your stepchildren by turning on *The Simpsons* weekly TV cartoon and telling them it's about a far-off place called Ypsilanti.
• You know your kids' Grade Point Averages but can't remember their teachers' names or what grades they're in.
• You've never been to a PTA meeting, but promise to 'do lunch' with the kids' teachers some time.
• You really knocked yourself out on Moonbeam's science project, but won't vote in the next school election.
• You think the American West begins at Dexter and the Near East is somewhere between Wayne and Detroit.
• You take out-of-town visitors to see the 'Historic District' built by Henry Ford in Dearborn.
• Your subdivision's street names sound like counties in England, but the house designs look like Andy Hardy's neighborhood.
• Your kid wears 'shades' all day, has a WalkMan plugged into his ears, and still sucks his thumb.
• Your idea of a day in the country is double parking at the Farmers' Market while listening to a Willie Nelson CD.
• On snowy winter mornings, you just call in sick. Sometimes for a week or two.
• 'Macho' is measured by the 'megs' on computer's hard drive.
• You not only didn't know the AATA buses go to Ypsilanti, you thought the local runs were just for college students and renters.
• You may have to turn your government-financed empty downtown office spaces into low-income housing now that the Democrats are in power.
• You have time to run a twice-a-year 'Free Kittens' booth at Kerrytown, but no time to visit the spay/neuter clinic at the Humane Society.
• You wonder why those homeless people at the Tent City don't just call their realtor.
• You never understood how the University of Michigan started out in Monroe.
• You update your U-Hospital card every three months just to feel you're a part of the midwest.
• You met your ward's City Council*person* at a cocktail party, but couldn't really tell if he/she was Politically Correct or not - so you'll attend a seminar on it.
• You call the Community Comment radio show at least once a month to complain about "what's wrong with the world today!" - in lieu of voting.
• You say, "Have a nice day," becauseyou figure aything else you can think of might be interpreted as sexual harrassment.
• You really missed the *Sylvia* cartoon and wrote a nasty letter to the editor about it.
• Your psychiatrist puts you on hold even though she has Call Waiting.
• You think 'phony' is a slogan from a cellular telephone company.

Depot Town Clearing House

Commercial & Residential Properties available
in Ypsilanti's historic railroad district
Call: 482-6371 or 485-8228
for the current listing

Teachers Shop
& LEARNING CENTER, LTD.
All materials for Classroom & Curricula
Your K12 CONNECTION
(313) 482-6373
16 E. Cross Street, Ypsilanti, MI 48198

Aubree's

SALOON
35 East Cross Street
Since 1873

Depot Doo

Fine Design in Hair Style
25 East Cross • 484-3045

Breakfast • Lunches
Miller's
You know us for our ice cream . . . but do you know us for our food & gifts?
Catering Ice Cream Cakes & Pies
In historic Depot Town
ICE CREAM PARLOR & EMPORIUM
42 E. Cross
Mon-Sat 8 - 10 Sun 12 - 10
485-7545 • Open All Year

Stick it in *The Rag*
for only $10 month.
You can't get any more local than this!
Send your copy to The Old Caboose by the 3rd Thursday and you'll see your ad here the following month.
Many payment plans. Trust us.
The Depot Town Rag:
All the news in one block in one month

Big business worried that Depot Towns may have been right all along - say big dailies and big retailers

No sooner was Bill Clinton installed as President than the National Retail Federation held their annual convention in New York and worried out loud and through their marketing consultants that American shoppers may have changed their shopping allegiances as well as their political views in the last few years. Concerned about the effect of health care policies and value-added taxes hurting their sales and profitability, virtually all of their concerns were couched in the examples of giant retail companies. Kmart claims they can't raise prices and chairman Joseph Antonini points to recent losses in their Canadian market.

No business folk from Depot Town attended the conference, but futurists challenged others to get ready to change in response to changing consumers. Depot Town may have been ready for their response for the better part of one hundred and sixty-some years, now.

"Big is bad," is how Brain Reserve's Faith Popcorn describes the consumer view at this time. In what she characterizes as 'icon toppling,' Popcorn expects to see a return to the ethics of a more traditional time and of more attention to small businesses and greater feelings of neighborhoodliness. "Consumers want an ethical biography of the company," she was quoted as saying in *The Detroit Free Press* last month. "You have to get out in front of your logo and say who you are." This outrageous 'new' ethic is well known in places like Ypsilanti's railroad district.

Marketing consultant Carol Farmer warns that the "less is more" theme will be prevalent by the end of the decade. Perhaps these could be indicators that the strip malls might be coming back to the downtown districts where people still call each other by their first names and have a sense of the reality of their community?

Here we are, right in the middle of things again: down in Depot Town.

Poets read at The Daily Grind

Dr. Arwulf Arwulf brings a stable of modern poets to the district's coffee shop on Valentine's Day, Sunday the 14th, to share their recent works in an 'open mic' format.

The Doctor has been seen in many Depot Town events: he has been a judge for the Heritage Jazz Competition, he has broadcast his Sunday morning radio program from James MacDonald/Apple Annie's, and he's a regular on the jazz and art scene in the neighborhood.

Arwulf Arwulf invites poets to join in on Valentine's Day at The Daily Grind and 'coffee-up' with him.

Park renovation hearing desires citizen input

While plans are unveiled for Prospect Park's renovation, citizen support and input are both appreciated and needed as a catalyst to secure the necessary funding for improvements say East Side supporters of the City's Recreation Department's coming hearing.

Wednesday, February 15 will see a public hearing held in the Freighthouse to begin the process to align the public funds for this project. "Mark your calendars," say neighborhood activists and flower lovers, "and show your support! It's one more way we can take pride in Ypsilanti."

Clear winter walks part of our district's tradition

For as long as the snow has been falling on Depot Town's sidewalks these past 160+ years, the loyal clientele has remarked at how safe and well kept they are. Each morning after a snowfall sees building and shop owners in front, back and on the sides of their properties, cleaning off the entries to local establishments for the convenience of their customers.

In his January 14 "City Side" column in the *Ypsi Press*, City Manager Herb Gilsdorf reminded Ypsilantians of the local ordinances which help to continue this Victorian (and terribly practical) tradition:

- No parking on primary snow emergency routes (East Cross Street) during heavy snowfalls.
- No parking on secondary emergency streets (everything else in the district) from midnight to 8 am12 hours after a heavy snowfall.
- City Code requires residents to clear sidewalks adjoining their property within 48 hours of the first accumulation of any snow or ice. Sand, salt or other chemicals must be applied to prevent the sidewalk from being slippery and dangerous.
- Parking lots must be plowed within 24 hours of any accumulation.

Depot Town sets the standard for the rest of the community with thoughtfully kept pedestrian ways — and the City's Department of Public Works is admired widely for its careful attention to snow removal throughout the entire City.

Yes: Include us in the 1993 issues of *The Rag*.

√ Owner/manager's name_____

√ Business name_____

√ Address Phone #_____

√ Other copy... Attached?

√ Camera-ready art enclosed? Yes No

√ See us as soon as possible!

Method of payment:
- $10 monthly
- $30 quarterly
- $100 in advance for 12 months

Make check payable to:
"Depot Town Association Inc."
c/o The Old Caboose
400 Market Place
Ypsilanti, MI 48198

Depot Town Association, Inc., 21 January 1993

Minutes of of 17 December corrected to read "DTA" will underwrite first three month's publication of *The Rag* (not "DDA").

Treasury holds $5600 with Frog Island payments coming in after registered letters sent out for final billing. Several sponsors claimed to not have received the first three billings. Four still have not responded. Next promotions will send first bill via registered mail.

Michigan Tourism magazine representative has not yet returned to the block to finalize solicitations of support and inclusion.

Rag Report: Invoices will be sent to recent sponsors to encourage their continued support. Few responded to the sponsor form included in the December and January issues. February issue reflects current trends in big/small business images and Ann Arbor's bad taste.

Chamber of Commerce dues will be paid this month and DTA encourages all businesses on the block to consider becoming active members, as well.

Frog Island Festival ticket prices this June will included a 25¢ increase per ticket for the City of Ypsilanti. No plans, yet, for another program book as a fund raiser.

Caboose restoration is still awaiting the final decision on bids for extensive repair work. Many Crossing Guard Tower building supplies are still stored under the cupola.

Cow Chip Competition is still being investigated by the French Brothers and a report is expected in February.

DDA: • The Depot Town Downtown Development Authority expects more indication of district decline with the closing of Marino Engineering and SpecialTree Rehabilitation Center which each had a great deal of professional equipment in inventory.

• A legal challenge to prove the decline of district values in recent years.

• A professional landscape firm, Beckett & Rader, is interested in contributing *pro bono* work for district development and planning. Bob Doyle's contribution of expertise for planning and planting the Cross Guard Tower remains active.

Heritage Festival policy committee needs a letter from DTA telling who will be the Association's official liaison to their group. President Blackmer will follow up with an appointment and letter.

• This year's Festival theme is "Trains, Planes and Automobiles"

Antique Engine Club newsletter is active again and sent to DTA president each month encouraging the membership to join their activities (see calendar at right).

Winter street banners will remain on poles through March.

A local crime wave surged during January with several break-ins and one reported stick-up. Panhandlers have also been reported on the block. Police department's new Community Relations officer has made her presence known and hopes to turn this problem around. Neighbors should report any untoward activity at once.

Spring flowers in 1992 cost $900 which was supplied by a few private citizens. Could DDA endorse and support this cost from now on? Expert advice is needed next season to determine which kinds of flowers will best survive in which locations.

The Clearing House for rental properties in the district is being reactivated. Bettie Dodd and Richard Reid will again field requests from possible tenants and owners should let them know of coming available rental units, both commercial and residential.

Serenity House seeks information on membership and more involvement. Dave Blackmer will invite them, again, to come to DTA meetings.

Crossing Guard Tower coordinator David Davis will be recognized and thanked officially for his leadership in the reconstruction of the Tower at the January meeting of the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation. A commemorative album of photographs and clippings will be presented.

The Tower's dedication is being planned for a spring 1993 event. District actives and volunteers are encouraged to suggest ideas for that event.

Strictly local stuff:

February 1993

Depot Towners are invited to participate in any or all of the following activities for the good of this old commercial district:

Depot Town Association
7:30 p.m. Thursday, 18th
J&R Trading Post

Depot Town Downtown Development Authority
8 am Wednesdays
at the Daily Grind

Depot Town Antique Engine Club
7:30 pm 25th
at the Freighthouse

THE DEPOT TOWN RAG

A publication of the Depot Town Association, Inc. a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation dedicated to preserving the unique character of the neighborhood and to the enhancement of its business climate.

-Tom Dodd, editor

The Depot Town Association, Inc.
David Blackmer, president
c/o The Old Caboose
400 Market Place
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198

You can rent
The Old Caboose
. . . for your party, dinner, or meeting . . .
($25 + deposit)
Call 483-4256.

Hey, kids: Can you find 10 clowns hiding in this issue of *The Rag*?

Happy Valentine's Day

Hansen's
STANDARD PRINTING

35 E. Cross Street • Ypsilanti, Michigan
Tel: (313) 483-0339 • Fax: (313) 483-3130
In The Heart of Depot Town

Guarantee

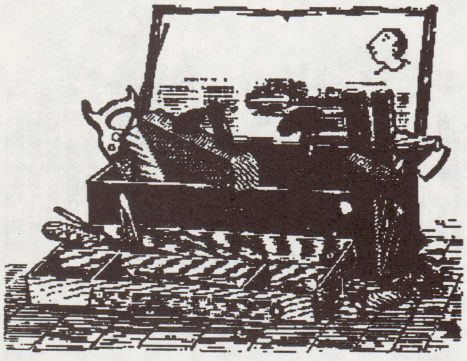
Your support makes a difference!

Please include me among the members of
The Depot Town Association, Inc.

Name _____
Street _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

I'm available to help with Association projects. Call me at _____

Annual dues:
- o $25 Regular Member (Property or business owner)
- o $10 Associate Member (Interested in and supportive)
- o $100 Life Member (A great deal if you had joined in 1976!)
- o Please place my name on the monthly mailing list of *The Depot Town Rag*
- o Don't mail *The Rag*. I'll pick it up in the neighborhood.
- $ Clip and send check to "Depot Town Association" c/o The Old Caboose, 400 Market Place, Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198



Railroad memos from the Ypsi yard

"There are plenty of official opinions in these," said Farmers' Market manager Gary Urick as he dug through the pile of memos found in an old Ypsilanti Railroad Freighthouse file last fall. Dating from October 1930 to December 1936, the documents are both handwritten and typed, on stationery and plain newsprint; about a third are carbon copies, some are typed on New York Central Lines stationery with the Michigan Central Railroad letterhead at top center. That logotype also established the Michigan Central as "The N.Y.C.R.R.Co., Lessee."

This tidy treasure trove of local *memo*-rabilia falls into three categories which shall be featured in the February, March and April editions of *The Rag*:

1. **Ypsilanti Freighthouse dock/platform needs work -1930** (14 memos)
   A single 1935 memo finds fault with the four-year-old installation
2. **Freighthouse heating updated - 1931** (14 memos)
3. **Security needed for cash drawer - 1935** (ten memos)

As youngsters, most Depot Towners marveled at the crewman pulling the switch or the gatekeeper working the crossing gates or the engineer as he waved from the steam engine. But, after following these formal missives, we may also gain a new understanding of what those guys in the front office were doing at the same time. These bits of epic of railroad trivia shed new light on the paperwork that kept America rolling down the rails.

The memos are now in the collection of the Ypsilanti Historical Museum on North Huron.

Freighthouse dock/platform needs work (1930)

Detroit, October 31, 1930
Mr. H.A. Horning, Supt. Bldgs., Jackson, Mich.
Dear Sir: Referring to my conversation with Mr. Nies relative to removing a portion of freight dock at Ypsilanti:

I have taken this matter up with Mr. Mowrer, Agent, and have outlined in red on attached print the dock which he is willing to abandon.

My understanding with you was that you wished to remove the dock at the North and South ends of the building, together with the dock at the West side of building, although the Agent desires to leave the North and South docks in service.

Expense to re-build dock - $1500.00
Expense to abandon dock - 325.00
Yours truly, Chas. F. Green, Div. Foreman

Jackson, Mich. Nov. 3, 1930
Mr. D. J. Hackett, Superintendent, Jackson
Dear Sir: The platform around the freight house at Ypsilanti is decayed and requires rebuilding.

The cost to rebuild this platform is estimated at $2,215.00, and at many stations we have worked out plans to reduce the size of the platform materially, particularly on the delivery side of house, indicated in red on the enclosed print.

There would seem to be little need also for the large platform at the west end of the house.

Will you please have the situation investigated, and advise your wishes.

Yours truly, Supt. Buildings. (copy)

Jackson, Michigan, November 12, 1930
Mr. H.A. Horning, Supt. Buildings, Jackson Junction.
Dear Sir: Your letter of the 3rd inst., file Y-37, in regard to platform around the freight house at Ypsilanti, and returning blueprint accompanying same.

We can make deliveries direct from house to trucks and can give up that part of the platform marked in red on attached blueprint, thus cutting off about 1824 square feet, or an estimated saving of $1824.00.

The balance of dock at west end of house is needed and cannot give up any more of it than that portion marked off in red.

Yours truly, D. J. Hackett, Superintendent

Jackson, Mich. Nov. 14, 1930
Mr. C. F. Green, Div. Foreman, Detroit, Mich.
Dear Sir: It has been decided that platform of Ypsilanti freight house can be reduced by eliminating that portion on the delivery side of house, indicated in red on the enclosed print, the balance to be maintained.

If it can be done, it is desirable to carry the platform over until next spring as is, and in the meantime make up a bill of material and make requisition.

Please advise if you feel it can be carried over safely.

Yours, truly, HAH/DE, Supt. Buildings

Ypsilanti, November 26, 1930
Mr. C.F. Green, Div. Foreman, Bldgs., Detroit
Dear Sir: Herewith bill of Ed McDonald, plumber, for repairing leading into Freight office, City water.

Amount $10.55.
Please voucher direct.
Yours truly, E.E. Maurer, agent (hand-written)

Detroit, Mich., Nov. 28, 1930
Mr. H.A. Horning, Supt. Bldgs., Jackson, Mich.
Dear Sir; Attached herewith statement in the amount of $10.55 from Ed McDonald covering repairs to plumbing at Ypsilanti Freight Office, which has been checked and found correct. Kindly handle.

Yours truly, Chas. F. Green, Div. Foreman.

Jackson, Mich. Nov. 28, 1930
Mr. C.F. Green, Div. Foreman, Detroit, Mich.
Dear Sir: Please refer to my letter of Nov. 14th., in regard to carrying over repairs to Ypsilanti Freight House platform until next spring.

Will you please favor me with your reply in this matter.

Yours truly, FJH/DE, Supt. Buildings

Jackson, Mich. Dec. 1, 1930
Mr. C.B. Boyer, Accountant, Engineering Dep't,
Dear Sir: I am enclosing herewith bill from Ed. McDonald, amounting to $10.55 for repairing plumbing in Freight House at Ypsilanti.

Bill is correct, and I would be pleased if you will arrange for voucher to cover, chargeable to "Stations & Office Bldg., M.C. Frt.".

Yours, truly, FJH/DE, Supt. Buildings

Detroit, Mich., Jan. 31, 1931
Mr. H.A. Horning, Supt. Buildings, Jackson,
Dear Sir: Replying to your letter of Nov. 14th, File &-37, and returning the attacht blue print, relative to removing part of freight house platform at Ypsilanti and repairing the balance.

Wish to advise that part of platform shown in red on the attacht print has been removed and the balance repaired.

Abandoned property report covering attacht.
Your truly, Chas. F. Green, Div. Foreman

Jackson, Michigan, February 10, 1931
Mr. A. T. Hopkins, Valuation Engineer, Detroit,
Dear Sir: I attach cost report covering cost of installing fender timbers on the south side of freight house at Ypsilanti, Mich. as well as abandoned property report covering retirement of platform at same location.

This platform was in a dilapidated condition and either had to be entirely, rebuilt or removed. Upon taking the matter up with the Div. Superintendent, he advised that same was no longer needed and that it could be removed. This was done in the latter part of January (and) in order to protect brick walls of building from teams and trucks. 10 X 10 fender timbers were installed along the south side where platform was removed.

Yours truly, HVV/BF, Supt. Buildings

Jackson, Michigan, February 10, 1931
Mr. C.B. Boyer, Accountant - Engr. Dept., Detroit, Mich.
Dear Sir: Please debit Auth. (to be asked for) Ypsilanti, Mich. new fender timbers on south side of freight house replacing platform retired, with labor January 1931, amounting to $119.86, and credit operating expenses, Station and Office Bldgs., M.C. Fret. with like amount.

Yours truly, HVV/BF, Supt. Bldgs.

Jackson, Michigan, April 28th, 1931
Mr. H. A. Horning, Supt. Buildings, Jackson Jct.
Dear Sir: Am enclosing herewith letter from Trainmaster Turney in regard to plank walk leading east from platform and steps at Ypsilanti Freight House and office being badly decayed and unsafe.

Will you kindly let me have your comments relative to replacing with cinder walk.

Yours truly, D.J. Hackett, Superintendent

Detroit, Mich., May 14, 1931
Mr. H. A. Horning, Supt. Buildings, Jackson,
Dear Sir: Replying to your notation on the attacht, regarding repairs required at Ypsilanti Freight House and Office.

Wish to advise that the necessary repairs have been made.

Yours truly, Chas. F. Green, Div. Foreman

Jackson, Mich. May 15, 1931
Mr. D. J. Hackett, Superintendent, Jackson,
Dear Sir: Referring to your letter of April 28th., File 7825, and returning herewith letter from Mr. Turney, in regard to repairs required at Ypsilanti freight house platform:

These repairs have been made.
Yours truly, FJH/DE, Supt. Buildings (encl.)

In the April *Rag*:

"Freighthouse heating updated - 1931," in which the steam pipes are run under the tracks from the depot greenhouse.

Olde Towne
Coin & Gold
24 E. Cross Street

A Depot Town SIMPLER

But seriously, now

. . . why don't we just drop all this territoriality between the cities of Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor and get on with the business of getting on? And while we're at it, why not include the several townships of Pittsfield, Superior, Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti, as well?

Just about the only thing these six municipalities do separately is pay their taxes - to different governmental bodies - for much duplication of the same services. Let's vote for the candidates who produce a plan to consolidate and merge as much of our locale as is humanly possible and will develop a politic of inclusion for the citizens, as well.

Let's hope for a day when Ypsi folk can see their own home movies on the ever-increasing Cable TV Community Access Channels.

Let's dismantle Coleman Young's $213 million People Mover and move people back and forth over or under the US-23 border.

Let's see who can see the humor beyond this season's mayoral elections, too, and find the answers to the campaign's biggest political promises, so far:

1. When they put a dome over the downtown business district, will the traffic be re-routed down East Cross Street?

2. If a giant consumer mall takes over the Harriet Street property's 10± acres, where will we park the customers' cars?

3. If the City creates a new bureau to handle recycling, who will keep the union workers and all those volunteers out of each others' hair?

And while we're at it, let's ask the United States Post Office where the 48198 office is? The Feds just opened a new 48197 office on South Huron/Whittaker Road, cut back on the downtown location, and then closed the Ecorse Road office. Where does the 48198 mail come through? Why isn't the east side of the Huron River represented up there on that new sign? This isn't a resurgence of the old east/west controversy, is it?

Lots of laughs in Our Town. Just be sure you laugh at the right time. Timing is everything.

POTPOURRI GARDENS
Designers: Betty Newhouse, Linda Gault
Featuring: Floral Waters, Arrangements, Potpourri
16 East Cross Street • 313-483-0261

Ad Art
313-483-4256
517-592-8708
Design and Layout
Typeset for ads, brochures, books, manuscripts, resumés, catalogues.
Complete production, graphics, consulting

D. L. Church Construction
Building & Remodeling
Reliable & Experienced
Les Church
(313) 483-1237
105 Babbitt
Ypsilanti, MI 48198

Therapy – for adolescents & adults
(313) 481-1200
Depot Town
Counseling Center
9 East Cross, Depot Town
individual • couple • family • group

REMINGTON-WALKER
Design Associates
Specializing in Antiques,
Christmas Designs,
Heirloom Treasures, Tapestry
Commercial and Residential
23 East Cross Street
485-2164

Ypsilanti
Recycling Project
• Take the load off landfills
• Reduce municipal spending
• Conserve our natural resources
• Preserve our environment
313-485-0530
651 Rice Street
Friday: noon - dusk, Saturday: 9am - 3pm
VOLUNTEER AND LEARN

Hon's
Flowers
& Fancies
46 East Cross
482-2124

Cooking Encounters
• Saturday, February 13
Cheese samples, info and recipes
Orientations
about the Co-op
and the products available
• 2 pm, Saturday, February 13
• 2 pm, Saturday, February 27
Receive 15% discount on your groceries that day for attending.
YPSI FOOD COOP
Sun. 12-5, M,T,Th, F 10-8 Wed. 10-9 Sat. 9-8
312 N. RIVER ST. 483-1520

J & R Trading Post
Antique & Gift Mall
Many old toys • glassware • records
lamps • furniture • jewelry
gifts • cards
Snack Shop with
Old Fashioned Ice Cream
19 E. Cross 483-5870

RE/MAX®
Of Ann Arbor
Independently Owned & Operated
900 Victors Way, Suite 190
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48108
Multiple Listing Service
MLS™
Office: (313) 663-0400
(313) 482-1279
(313) 483-6131
Fax: (313) 663-0451
(800) 253-6288
Richard M. Reid
Paul M. Giles